GPS/GIS Technologies
Supplement 1.9

GPS First Aid Kit: Troubleshooting in the Field

List of equipment needed for the **GPS First Aid Kit:**

- Volt-Ohm meter to check the battery of the GPS Unit. The voltage of the battery needs to be above 12 volts or the unit will not operate correctly. Check the voltage of the battery by unplugging it from the computer (on the inside of the backpack) and inserting the two probes of the Volt-Ohm meter into the two terminals of the battery. The setting on the Volt-Ohm meter needs to be on DC current, and the scale selected must be one that will read up to 16 volts.
- Spare "AA" batteries for the Newton. We recommend at least eight extra batteries.
- Power inverter. The device that plugs into the cigarette lighter of your vehicle and converts 12 volt DC current into 120 volt AC current. It is highly recommended that any time you are going out into the field, you plug the GPS unit into the power inverter while you are in transit to the field location where you are planning to use the GPS unit.

Question: I am out in the field and I can't seem to be able to collect any points. What is wrong?

Answer: The most common reason why the unit will not work out in the field is low batteries.

Question: Before I go to the field, what preparation must I do in terms of the equipment involved, i.e., the GPS unit and the Newton?

Answer: The following preparations should be made before taking the equipment to the field to collect GPS data:

- The battery on the GPS unit should be charged overnight and then plugged into the power inverter while the unit is in transit. This will insure that the batteries are ready to correctly operate the GPS computer.
- It is very highly recommended that fresh batteries be inserted into the Newton before an extended session in the field. However, you may want to take extra batteries instead.